

LATEST NEWS OF THE WORLD BY TELEGRAPH AND CABLE. { CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

IMPOSING CEREMONIES AT MOUNT VERNON

A Fitting Celebration of the Anniversary of the Death of Washington.

THE PRESIDENT'S ELOQUENT TRIBUTE

Mount Vernon, Where Washington Lived and Died, the Scene of Unique and Impressive Ceremonies Conducted by the Masons and the Improved Order of Red Men—Invocation by Bishop Randolph, of Norfolk, and Benediction by Rabbi Calish, of Richmond.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)
Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—With solemn pomp and circumstance, with ceremonies, beautiful, impressive and appropriate, in the presence of a distinguished assemblage, and in the full splendor of ideal autumn weather, the centennial of the death of George Washington was commemorated today at Mount Vernon.

To-day's ceremonies were elaborately planned and successfully carried to fruition. They were conducted by the Masonic bodies and by the Red Men of the United States. Charge of the ceremonies incident to to-day's commemoration was placed in the hands of the Masons of Virginia, it being in the Old Dominion that Washington was obligated as a Master Mason and there that he participated enthusiastically in Masonic work and observances. The officers of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and the membership of Fredericksburg Lodge, in which Washington was made a Mason, and of Washington-Alexandria Lodge, over which he presided as worshipful master, had the chief part in the duty of seeing that to-day's observances were appropriate.

THE PILGRIMAGE.
The visiting Masons, many accompanied by the ladies of their families, congregated in Washington early to-day, and, escorted by the Masonic bodies of the District of Columbia, headed by the Grand Lodge of the District, made the pilgrimage to Mount Vernon by boat. The Virginia Masons assembled at Alexandria and thence, escorted by Fredericksburg Lodge and Washington-Alexandria Lodge, as bodies, proceeded to Mount Vernon also by boat. At 10 o'clock President McKinley, himself, an enthusiastic Mason, accompanied by Secretary of State Hay, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of the Interior, Hitchcock, Secretary of Agriculture, Wilson, and Postmaster General Smith, of the Cabinet; Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Allen, Major General Miles, left Washington on a special electric train for Mount Vernon, arriving there at 11 o'clock. The Presidential party was greeted by Grand Master Duke, of Virginia, and by him was escorted to the mansion.

THE FUNERAL RITES.
After the President and his Cabinet had reviewed the Masonic bodies from a platform on the east front of the mansion, a procession was formed and moved, as on the day of General Washington's funeral, December 18, 1799, to the old vault, where the remains were first deposited. There, in the immediate presence of the grand officers of the various States and the assembled Masons, solemn funeral rites were conducted.

A solemn dirge by the Third Cavalry Band was followed by the invocation pronounced by the Rt. Rev. A. M. Randolph, Bishop of the Southern Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. Grand Master A. A. Burnand, of Colorado, delivered an oration on the life and work of Washington.

AT THE TOMB.
The procession reformed and moved then to the tomb where the remains of Washington and those of his family now lie. The tomb was magnificently decorated with flags and festoons of evergreens and flowers. Prayer was offered by the Rev. G. H. Ray, D. D., grand chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

When the Grand Master of Virginia called upon each of the jurisdictions of the thirteen original States, the jurisdictions of the Western States and those of Canada, Belgium and Nova Scotia, for messages and tributes sent by them, and all responded; then the Grand Master of the District of Columbia deposited within the tomb the lambkin apron as a token of innocence; the Grand Master of Missouri deposited the white glove as a token of friendship; and the Grand Master of California deposited the evergreen as an emblem of the Masonic faith in the resurrection of the body and the immortality of the soul.

Scores of beautiful wreaths and bunches of evergreens were then deposited within the tomb, one of the most beautiful tokens, an immense wreath of ivy, immortelles and acacia blossoms, being offered by President McKinley.

THE PRESIDENT'S ORATION.
The procession returned to the east front of the mansion, where President McKinley, introduced by Grand Master Duke, delivered the following oration as his tribute to Washington:

"The great fraternity of Masons, which a century ago planned and executed the solemn ceremonial which attended the Father of his Country to his tomb. The lodge in which he was initiated, and the one over which he afterward presided as Worshipful Master, accorded positions of honor at his obsequies, are to-day represented here in token of profound respect to the memory of their most illustrious member and beloved brother.

WASHINGTON'S NAME REVERRED.
"Masons throughout the United States testify anew their reverence for the name of Washington and the inspiring example of his life. Distinguished representatives are here from all the grand lodges of the country to render the ceremonies as dignified and impressive as possible, and most cordial greetings have come from across our borders and from beyond the sea.

"Not alone in this country, but throughout the world, have Masons taken especial interest in the observance of this centennial anniversary. The fraternity justly claims the immortal patriot as one of its members; the whole human family acknowledges him as one of its greatest benefactors. Public bodies, patriotic societies, and other organizations, our citizens everywhere, have esteemed it a privilege to-day to pay their tribute to his memory and to the splendor of his achievements in the advancement of justice and liberty among men. His fair fame, secure in its immortality, shall shine through countless ages with undiminished luster."

THE REPUBLIC HE FOUNDED.
"The struggling Republic for which Washington was willing to give his life and for which he ever freely spent his fortune, and which at all times was the object of his most earnest solicitude, has steadily and wonderfully developed along the lines which his sagacity and foresight carefully planned. It has stood every trial, and at the dawn of a new century is stronger than ever to carry forward its mission of liberty. During all the intervening years it has been true, forever true, to the precepts of the Constitution which he and his illustrious colleagues framed for its guidance and government. He was the national architect, says Bancroft, the historian, and but for him the nation could not have achieved its independence, could not have formed its union, could not have put the Federal Government into operation. He had neither precedent nor predecessor. His work was original and constructive and has successfully stood the severest tests.

THE CAPITAL CITY.
"He selected the site for the Capital of the Republic he founded, and gave it the name of the Federal City, but the commission substituted the name of Washington as the more fitting, and to be a perpetual recognition of the services of the commander-in-chief of the Continental army, the president of the convention which framed the Constitution, and the first President of the Republic. More than 70,000,000 of people acknowledge allegiance to the flag which he has made triumphant. The nation is his best eulogist and his noblest monument.

SENTIMENTS OF CONTEMPORARIES.
"I have been deeply interested and touched by the sentiments of his contemporaries, uttered a hundred years ago on the occasion of his death. The Rev. Walter King, of Norwich, Conn., in the course of an eloquent eulogy delivered in that city January 5th, 1800, said in part:

"By one mighty effort of many resolutions we were born anew, and declared our independence. Now commenced the bloody contest for every-thing we held dear. The same Almighty Being, by whose guidance we were hitherto conducted, beheld us with compassion, and saw what we needed—a pilot, a leader in the perilous enterprise we had undertaken. He called for Washington, already prepared, anointed him as His servant with regal dignity, and put into his hands the control of all our defensive operations.

"But here admiration suppresses utterance. Your minds must fill out the active character of the man. A description of the warlike skill, the profound wisdom, the prudence, the heroism and integrity which he displayed in the character of the commander-in-chief would suffer materially in hands like mine; but I may say—the eyes of all our American Israel were placed upon him as their Savior, under the direction of heaven—and they were not disappointed."

A CENTURY AGO.
"The Rev. Nathan Strong, pastor of the North Presbyterian Church in Hartford, spoke as follows on December 27, 1799:

"He was as much the angel of peace as of war, as much respected, as deeply revered, in the political cabinet for

Continued on Page 8.

A DESTRUCTIVE LYDDETTE SHELL

One Alone Kills and Wounds Over Seventy Boers.

A SUCCESSFUL SORTIE

Further Particulars of the Fight Between the British and the Burgers at Magersfontein—A Picket Post Destroyed—Revised List of British Casualties—Lieut. Maston Churchill Escapes from Prison—Mobilizing Divisions

(By telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)
London, Dec. 14.—A special dispatch received here from Weenen, Natal, dated Monday, December 11th, says that the Ladysmith garrison has made a sortie and destroyed the Modderspruit bridge.

A DESPERATE FIGHT.
Modder River, Cape Colony, Tuesday, Dec. 12.—Details gathered here by a representative of the Associated Press among the wounded British and Boers.



GENERAL LORD METHUEN.

Some of the hardest fighting of the South African campaign has fallen to Lord Methuen, who has just met with another reverse at Modder River.

gave some idea of the desperate nature of the fight at Magersfontein. The Highlanders did all that the most gallant troops in the world could do, but it was impossible to face the terrible fire of the Boers. The British artillery again saved the situation and divided the honors of the day with the Scots. The batteries worked for hours under a galling rifle fire.

According to the Boer stories, it was impossible for the burghers to have escaped fearful loss. One Boer prisoner said a single Lyddette shell killed or wounded over seventy and that two other shells burst over two bodies of Boers ensconced behind the range, doing fearful damage. All agree that the Boers fought throughout with the utmost gallantry. Their sharpshooters seldom missed the mark.

SINGLED OUT OFFICERS.
A Seaforth Highlander says that while he was lying wounded on the field he saw a Boer, of typical German appearance, faultlessly dressed, with polished top boots, a shirt with silk ruffles and a cigar in his mouth, walking among the ant hills, picking off the British. He was quite alone and it was apparent from the frequent use he made of field glasses that he was singling out officers.

Another wounded Boer says that a Lyddette shell, fired on Sunday, fell in the middle of an open air prayer meeting held to offer supplications for the success of the Boer arms.

All the wounded are full of praise for the treatment they received from the medical department on the battlefield.

PICKET POST DESTROYED.
While the guards were advancing on

Continued on Page 11.

THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE

Debate on the Currency Bill Continued in the House.

MR. SIBLEY DISAPPOINTS

He Will Vote Against the Pending Bill—Democratic Members Prepare Resolutions on the Philippine Situation—Senator Pettigrew's Inquiry Laid on the Table by Decisive Majority.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—The debate on the Currency bill in the House to-day was tame and prosaic. The attendance both in the galleries and on the floor was light and none of the speeches made attracted special attention. Mr. Sibley, Democrat, Pennsylvania, who has publicly announced his change of views on the money question and who it was thought might vote for the bill, stated that he would vote against it. Mr. Thayer, a Massa-

against the pending bill, he said, but he did not entirely agree with the views of members upon the minority side. He would, therefore, content himself with printing his opinions.

CALLED TO WITNESS.

Mr. Richardson, the minority leader, called Mr. Sibley to witness that he had been offered 35 minutes within which to present his views. To this Mr. Sibley assented, but said he had not availed himself of the proffer, as he did not desire to embarrass the gentleman who had tendered it.

Mr. McCleary, Minnesota, remarked upon the change which had come over the Democrats. In past Congresses they had always seemed eager and anxious to offer a free silver proposition as a substitute for almost anything that happened to be pending. During the debate not a Democrat had come forward with a free silver substitute.

At 5 o'clock the House recessed until 8 o'clock.

NIGHT SESSION.

At the night session the following members made speeches: Messrs. H. C. Smith (Iowa), of Illinois, and Gibson (Tenn.), of Tennessee, in favor of the bill, and Messrs. Sheppard (Dem.), of Texas; Shackelford (Dem.), of Missouri; W. E. Wilson (Dem.), of Illinois; Burnett (Dem.), of Alabama; Allen (Dem.), of Kentucky; McLain (Dem.), of Mississippi; Ridgely (Pop.), of Kansas; Beazeele (Dem.), of Louisiana; Little (Dem.), of Arkansas; Talbert (Dem.), of South Carolina, and Stokes (Dem.), of South Carolina, against the bill.

At 10:15 the House adjourned until to-morrow at 11 a. m.

WHAT THE SENATE DID.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—The Senate to-day by a decisive vote and practically without discussion, laid on the table the Pettigrew resolution of inquiry as to whether or not United States forces had recognized the Philippine insurgents' flag and had turned over Spanish soldiers to the insurgents. It agreed to the House Christmas recess resolution, and agreed to meet to-morrow to receive reports on the composition of its committees for this Congress.

The vote on the Pettigrew resolution resulted 41 yeas to 20 nays as follows: Yeas—Aldrich, Allison, Beveridge, Carter, Chandler, Clark (Wyoming), Deboe, Dewey, Elkins, Fairbanks, Foraker, Foster, Frye, Gallinger, Gear, Hanna, Hawley, Keam, Lindsay, Lodge, McBride, McComas, McCumber, McEnery, McLaurin, McMillan, Nelson, Perkins, Platt (Connecticut), Platt (New York), Pritchard, Ross, Scott, Sewall, Shoup, Spooner, Stewart, Thurston, Wellington, Weimere, Wolcott—41.

Nays—Bacon, Bate, Berry, Butler, Clay, Cockrell, Harris, Hittfield, Hoar, Jones (Arkansas), Knapp, Money, Pettigrew, Pettus, Rawlins, Sullivan, Tallaferro, Tillman, Turley, Vest—20.

On motion of Mr. Foraker the Senate, at 1:05 p. m., adjourned out of respect to the memory of the late Representative Danford, of Ohio.

THE PHILIPPINES.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Two joint resolutions were introduced in the House of Representatives to-day by Representative Williams, of Mississippi, which are the result of the consultation among a number of Democratic leaders in the House, and are understood to be expressive of their general position on the Philippines.

The text of the first resolution is as follows:

"Whereas the hope has been held out that the Filipinos now waging war against the forces of the United States their arms if authoritatively assured that it was the intention of the Government and the people of the United States ultimately to grant to the people of that island their independence and the absolute control of their domestic affairs, and

"Whereas, such is the intention of the Government and of the American people, who do not believe in wars of conquest or criminal aggression against other peoples and have frequently declared their horror thereof, now therefore be it

"Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

"Section 1. That it has always been our intent and purpose to recognize the inalienable right of the Filipinos to self-government and national independence, and that in pursuance thereof we shall make formal recognition of these rights and withdraw our land and sea forces upon the establishment of peace and the inauguration of a constitutional government, or governments, by the people of the islands, or any of them, provided the said government agrees, or the said governments agree, to refund the \$20,000,000 which was paid by us to the Queen of Spain; to give us fee simple, with right of sovereignty vested in us, a place suitable for a naval station and other places fitted for coaling stations, and to grant the American people in perpetuity the right of free access to all of their ports for goods, merchandise and persons bent on peaceful or missionary pursuit.

"Section 2. We pledge our friendly assistance and counsel in the work of inaugurating such a government.

"Section 3. We pledge ourselves to treat as an unfriendly manifestation toward the United States any foreign interference or aggression for the period of ten years from and after the establishment of such a government, provided that the government and people of said islands shall surrender into our keeping during that period the entire question of their foreign relations and shall pay the expense to which we may be put for such troops as shall, at the request of said government, be kept on Philippine territory, and of such ships and naval forces as may be kept in the Philippines or adjacent water for the purposes of the protection herein promised."

The other resolution recites the constitutional provisions against slavery and involuntary servitude, asks for information relative to the conclusion of a treaty with the Sultan of Jolo, and provides for an inquiry by the Judiciary Committee as to whether the Constitutional provisions against slavery and the statutory provisions against polygamy apply to the Sulu people.

MR. SIBLEY DISAPPOINTS.
When Mr. Sibley (Pennsylvania) arose to speak much interest was manifested, owing to the report that he had changed his views upon the silver question. Mr. Sibley, however, disappointed his audience. He had only risen to say that he proposed to print his views in the Record. He had been offered time by the Republicans, but as he had spoken against the Republican candidates in twenty-seven States in 1896 he did not desire to accept favors at their hands.

On the other hand he did not desire to embarrass the Democrats by asking for time from them. He would vote

A BEAUTIFUL HOME WEDDING

Mr. R. Lancaster Williams Weds Miss Rebekah Gustavia Watkins.

OUR RICHMOND LETTER

Alex. Tate, Whose Death Sentence Was Commuted to Life Imprisonment, Writes the Governor—Tender of Sympathy—Lawmakers Go to Mount Vernon—Dr. Hawthorne Attacks Bill Offered by Representative Whitehead.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.)

Richmond, Va., Dec. 14.—One of the prettiest home weddings of the season took place at 6 o'clock this evening, when Mr. Robert Lancaster Williams, head of the syndicate that controls the Norfolk street railways, and Miss Rebekah Gustavia Watkins were married.

There were only a few attendants on account of the recent death of a relative of the groom, but the home of the bride, where the ceremony was performed, had been transformed into a perfect bower of roses, palms and simlax.

Mr. E. Randolph Williams, a brother of the groom, was best man. Among the out-of-town guests were Messrs. Henry E. Baskerville and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Doyle, of Norfolk; Frank O. Briggs, of Trenton, N. J., and others. After a wedding trip Mr. and Mrs. Williams will reside in Richmond.

LETTER FROM ALEX. TATE.

Governor Tyler's mail this morning contained a letter written by the negro, Alexander Tate, whose sentence of death the Governor two days ago commuted to life imprisonment. The gratitude of the negro is evident, and none who read the letter can doubt the sincerity of the writer. His language is that of the simple and ignorant, and the style that of an emotional religiousist.

The Governor, as in the other two or three instances where he has exercised clemency, is satisfied that he has made no mistake, and feels that to have done otherwise than he has would be to have withheld the exercise of mercy where a reasonable doubt of the justice of allowing the law to take its course existed.

Tate's letter, in part, is as follows: Portsmouth, Va., Dec. 13, 1899, Governor Tyler:

My Dear Savior Here in This Kingdom: And I pray to prove faithful to your call and your command, because you have brought me out in this distressful hour. Your voice has come to me as a strange voice, but I have never seen your face. You have come to me and saved me, just as the Lord came to Daniel and saved him. For the good mercies you have done for me, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I can't explain how much overjoyed I am for what you have done for me.

God has given you power and also the sympathy, and you have shown it towards me, and I thank you, sir. I know that God do love you, for God had picked you out and shown you to me in preference to all the judges. I remain your humble servant.

ALEXANDER TATE.

TENDER OF SYMPATHY.

The death of Mrs. Ellen N. Lawless, at Portsmouth, was heard with regret at the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Mr. Joseph T. Lawless, who is thus deprived of his mother. The office clerical force this morning united in the following message of condolence:

Richmond, Va., Dec. 14, 1899. To Hon. Joseph T. Lawless, Portsmouth, Va.:

We have heard with regret of your bereavement, and all of us tender you our heartfelt sympathy.

J. G. HANKINS,
JOHN H. MOORE,
W. W. SCOTT.

LAW MAKERS GO AWAY.

The majority of the members of the Legislature, who went to Mt. Vernon this morning, returned to-night.

LE CATO OYSTER LAW.

It is said that at least \$5,000 of the \$34,000 profit accruing under the oyster and fish laws, and credited to the Le-Cato oyster law, is directly a return from the tax on perch nets and fish traps. A very high tax was placed on such nets and traps; so excessive was the tax that representatives of the fishing interests, by appearing before the legislative committee, succeeded in securing a substantial reduction in the rate of taxation. Still the measure, as finally passed in its modified form, has

Continued on Page 8.

OTHER TELEGRAPH PAGE 11

CLASSIFICATION OF NEWS.

BY DEPARTMENTS.

Telegraph News—Pages 1 and 11.
Local News—Pages 2, 3, 5, 6 and 11.
Editorial—Page 4.
Virginia News—Page 8.
North Carolina News—Page 7.
Portsmouth News—Pages 10 and 11.
Berkley News—Page 12.
Markets—Page 12.
Shipping—Page 9.
Real Estate—Page 12.